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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,535	05/13/2002	Hideo Haga	34108	6342

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EXAMINER

RAMPURIA, SHARAD K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2683

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/980,535

Applicant(s)

HAGA ET AL.

Examiner

Sharad Rampuria

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4-5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haffenden et al. (hereinafter Haffenden) in view of Grandbert (WO 98/25424) (hereinafter Grandbert).

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1. Regarding Claim 1, Haffenden disclosed A card holding structure in a portable terminal apparatus (38; fig.6), for fitting a card by sliding and for holding the card (abstract), comprising:

a card connector fixed in a card fitting portion provided inside a housing of the portable terminal apparatus; (col.4; 17-24)

a holding portion provided in a front portion, as viewed in a card sliding direction, of the card connector, and holding a front portion of the card; (col.4; 46-64) and

Haffenden fails to disclosed inner wall surface holding a rear portion of the card. However, Grandbert teaches in an analogous art, that an inner wall surface of a cover for the housing of the portable terminal apparatus, said inner wall surface holding a rear portion of the card. (pg.2; 25-30) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include inner wall surface holding a rear portion of the card in order to provide the cover of the battery and SIM card compartment are combined to a single combination cover.

2. Regarding Claim 2, Haffenden disclosed The card holding structure according to claim 1, wherein said card connector has two sets of contact portions (35; fig.3) which are respectively disposed at forward and rearward positions in the card sliding direction, so as to establish electrical contact with the card. (col.4; 17-24 & col.5; 27-43)

3. Regarding Claim 3, Haffenden disclosed The card holding structure according to claim 1, wherein the card fitting portion includes a recessed portion recessed in an inner

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surface of the housing, and a sliding movement of the card is guided by side wall surfaces of the recessed portion. (col.4; 24-33)

4. Regarding Claim 4, Haffenden disclosed The card holding structure according to claim 3, wherein the card fitting portion includes a housing-side stopper formed by a resilient piece having an end fixed to the card fitting portion. (col.4; 34-40)

5. Regarding Claim 5, Haffenden disclosed The card holding structure according to claim 4, wherein a tip portion of the housing-side stopper is directed toward a direction perpendicular to the card sliding direction. (col.4; 58-64)

6. Regarding Claim 6, Haffenden disclosed all the particulars of the claim except the cover serves as a battery housing. However, Grandbert teaches in an analogous art, that The card holding structure according to claim 1, wherein the cover serves as a battery housing. (pg.2; 30-34) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include the cover serves as a battery housing in order to provide the cover of the battery and SIM card compartment are combined to a single combination cover.

7. Regarding Claim 7, Haffenden disclosed The card holding structure according to claim 1, wherein the cover includes a cover-side stopper projecting toward the card fitting portion. (col.5; 1-10)

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8. Regarding Claim 8, Haffenden disclosed The card holding structure according to claim 7, wherein the cover-side stopper prevents the card from coming off rearward in the card sliding direction. (col.5; 1-10)

9. Regarding Claim 9, Haffenden disclosed The card holding structure according to claim 7, wherein the cover-side stopper presses the card at a position above a contact portion of the card. (col.5; 1-10)

10. Regarding Claim 10, Haffenden disclosed The card holding structure according to claim 7, wherein the cover-side stopper is disposed in a region opposing the cutout provided at a corner of the card. (col.5; 1-10)

11. Regarding Claim 11, Haffenden disclosed A portable terminal apparatus (38; fig.6; col.4; 11-16) comprising:

a housing including a card connector into which a card is slidingly fitted and is held, (col.4; 17-24) the card connector including a holding portion provided in a front portion, as viewed in a card sliding direction, of the card connector; (col.4; 46-64)

Haffenden fails to disclosed an inner wall surface thereof so as to press a rear portion of the card. However, Grandbert teaches in an analogous art, that a cover engaging said housing and including a pressing portion provided on an inner wall surface thereof so as to press a rear portion of the card. (pg.2; 25-30) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include an inner

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wall surface thereof so as to press a rear portion of the card in order to provide the cover of the battery and SIM card compartment are combined to a single combination cover.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharad Rampuria whose telephone number is 703-308-4736. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri. (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost can be reached on 703-308-5318. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.



WILLIAM TROST
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Sharad Rampuria
June 10, 2004